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**IDENTITY POLITICS, NATIONALISM AND CONFLICT**  
**October 3-5, 2025**  
**Faculty List**

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**SCOTT APPLEBY** is Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Global Affairs and Interim Director of the Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion in the Keough School of Global Affairs at Notre Dame. Appleby's research examines how religious movements and organizations shape and are shaped by national, regional, and global governance dynamics, deadly conflict, international relations, and economic development. His many publications include *The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence and Reconciliation*; *Strong Religion: The Rise of Fundamentalisms Around the World*; *Catholics in the American Century*; and *Peacebuilding: Catholic Theology, Ethics and Praxis*. He is also the co-editor, with Martin E. Marty, of the five-volume interdisciplinary public policy study known as *The Fundamentalism Project*.

**ALEX DE WAAL** is Executive Director of the World Peace Foundation and Research Professor at the Fletcher School, Tufts University. He has worked on the Horn of Africa, and on conflict, food security and related issues since the 1980s as a researcher and practitioner. De Waal served as a senior advisor to the African Union High Level Panel on Sudan and South Sudan. He was listed among *Foreign Policy*'s 100 most influential international intellectuals in 2008, *Atlantic*'s 29 'brave thinkers' in 2009, and is the recipient of the Royal Anthropological Institute's Huxley Award. De Waal's recent books include *The Real Politics of the Horn of Africa: Money, War and the Business of Power*; *Mass Starvation: The History and Future of Famine*; and *New Pandemics, Old Politics: 200 Years of the War on Disease and its Alternatives*.

**ALEXANDER DOWNES** is Professor of Political Science and International Affairs and co-Director of the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies at The George Washington University. Downes has written on a variety of subjects in international security, including civilian victimization, foreign-imposed regime change, military effectiveness, democracy, coercion, alliances, and solutions to civil wars. His first book, *Targeting Civilians in War* was published by Cornell University Press in 2008 and won the Joseph Leggold Prize awarded by Georgetown University for the best book in international relations published that year. His second book, *Catastrophic Success: Why Foreign-Imposed Regime Change Goes Wrong* was published in 2021.

**KELLY M. GREENHILL** is the Director of Seminar XXI; a faculty member at Tufts University and at MIT; and a Senior Research Fellow at MIT and at the Niskanen Center. Greenhill has thus far published four books, including the award-winning *Weapons of Mass Migration: Forced Displacement, Coercion, and Foreign Policy* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition forthcoming). Greenhill is currently revising another book project, which explores the influence of rumors, conspiracy theories and other forms of "extra-factual" information on foreign and defense policy formulation and implementation. Greenhill is also architect and co-creator of the "Geopolitics of Forced Migration" dataset project. Outside of academia, she has consulted for the UN, UNHCR, NATO, the World Bank and other international organizations.

**RON HASSNER** is Chancellor's Professor of Political Science and Diller Family Chair in Israel Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He is a faculty director of the Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies. Ron studies the role of symbols and ideas in international security with particular attention to the relationship between religion and violence. His publications have focused on territorial disputes, religion in the military, conflicts over holy places, and the pervasive role of religion on the modern battlefield. His recent

publications include *Anatomy of Torture; Religion in the Military Worldwide; Religion on the Battlefield; and War on Sacred Grounds*. He founded and was first chair of the “Religion and International Relations” section of the International Studies Association, and he edits the Cornell University Press series on “Religion and Conflict.”

**JANET LEWIS** is an Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at George Washington University. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the United States Naval Academy. Lewis’s research examines political violence, intergroup conflict, rural social networks, and state formation, focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa. Her 2020 book *How Insurgency Begins* won three “best book of the year” awards from the International Studies Association, the Conflict Research Society, and the African Politics section of the American Political Science Association. Her research has also been published in the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *International Organization*, among others.

**OXANA SHEVEL** is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Tufts University, and Director of Tufts International Relations Program. She currently serves as Vice-President of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) and Vice President of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN). Shevel’s research and teaching focus on the post-Soviet region, especially Ukraine and Russia, and issues such as nation-building and identity politics, citizenship policies, memory politics, church-state relations, and democratization processes in the post-Soviet region. She is coauthor of *Russia and Ukraine: Entangled Histories, Diverging States* (with Maria Popova). Her first book, *Migration, Refugee Policy, and State Building in Postcommunist Europe* won the 2012 American Association of Ukrainian Studies book prize.

**ÖMER TAŞPINAR** is Professor of Security Studies at the National Defense University and an Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins University’s SAIS, where he focuses on Political Economy, Europe, the Middle East, and Turkey. Previously, he was a Senior Policy Fellow and Director of the Turkey Program at Brookings. Taspinar has held consulting positions at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights in Washington and at the strategic planning department of TOFAS-FIAT in Istanbul. He is the author of *Kurdish Nationalism and Political Islam: Kemalist Identity in Transition; Winning Turkey: How the EU and the US can Restore a Fading Partnership* (with Philip Gordon); *What the West is Getting Wrong about the Middle East: Why Islam is not the Problem*; and *The Nation or the Ummah: Islamism and Turkish Foreign Policy* (with Birol Baskan).

**RICHARD WILCOX** is a diplomat and public finance expert currently serving as the UN WFP’s Private Sector Director. In 2022-2023 he was UN Special Advisor and Director of the UN Task Force on Russian food and fertiliser trade facilitation as part of the UN’s Black Sea Grain Initiative which he conceived and helped negotiate in 2022. Previously, he served as the Director-General of the African Union’s African Risk Capacity at the level of Assistant Secretary General and as Special Advisor on Humanitarian Finance to the United Nations World Food Program. He established the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue cyber conflict mediation practice in Geneva and co-founded Digital Equity, a Swiss association supporting governments and the private sector with their digital transformation, including providing AI-enabled hate and harmful speech monitoring to the electoral commissions of Kenya and Nigeria during their recent elections.

**STEVEN WILKINSON** is the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the Nilekani Professor of India and South Asian Studies and Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at Yale University. He has worked on political conflict in India, and his first book, *Votes and Violence*, won the 2005 Woodrow Wilson Award for the best book on Politics, Government, and International Affairs. He is also interested in corruption in politics, and co-edited the book *Patrons, Clients or Politics: Patterns of Political Accountability and Competition* (with Herbert Kitschelt). Wilkinson’s most recent book is *Army and Nation*, which examines India’s success in managing the imbalanced colonial army it inherited in 1947. He is currently working with Saumitra Jha (Stanford GSB) on articles and a book on war and political change, and on a new book on India’s changing defense structure (with Sushant Singh).